ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a network control system, the device has apparatus information holding units (7, 8) for holding in-device apparatus information which contains apparatus configuration information indicative of the device

5   configuration information and contains operation screen information indicative of the device functions and states and for configuring the device operation screen, and has a version information generation control units (9, 17, 18) for generating the version information to indicate the generation of the change and for carrying out version control when the

10   information held in the apparatus information holding units (7, 8) changes, and when the controller issues a notification request to the device in response to the change of the apparatus information in device, the version information is contained in the response from the device with respect to the notification request, and the controller reads the apparatus

15   information and version information in device from the device and detects the state change inside the device based on the version information, and the controller can quickly and easily detect any state change in the device that occurs due to controls of other controllers or spontaneous changes in the device, and the controller and the device are able to definitely share

20   the same state information.